

The following claim set replaces all claims presented previously.

- 1) (Original) A disposable servingware container comprising: a generally planar bottom portion; a first annular transition portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the generally planar bottom portion; an optional sidewall portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the first annular transition portion; a second annular transition portion flaring outwardly with respect to the first annular transition portion; an outer flange portion extending outwardly with respect to the second annular transition portion defining generally the container perimeter having a characteristic diameter; and at least first and second generally planar peripheral tabs extending outwardly from the flange portion of the container generally beyond the container perimeter, the peripheral tabs being configured so as to define a first cross-tab dimension between their outer edges generally parallel to and of like extent with a corresponding transverse dimension across the perimeter of the container.
- 2) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 1, wherein said first and second tabs extend outwardly from the perimeter of the container a distance of from about 0.02 to about 0.3 times the characteristic diameter.
- 3) (Cancelled)
- 4) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 1, having a generally round shape such that the container perimeter is a circle having a diameter, D , and wherein the first cross-tab dimension defined by the first and second peripheral tabs is generally equal in length to the diameter, D .
- 5) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 4, wherein the ratio of the height of the container to the characteristic diameter thereof is from about 0.05 to about 0.3.
- 6)-7) (Cancelled)

8) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 5, wherein there are provided at least 2 upwardly projecting ribs which divide the container at least 2 serving sections, one of which areas occupies at least about 60 percent of the bottom portion of the container.

9)-19) (Cancelled)

20) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 1, wherein said first and second peripheral tabs have an arcuate outer edge.

21) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 20, wherein the outer edges of the first and second peripheral tabs have a radius of curvature of from about 0.01 to about 0.4 times the characteristic diameter of the container.

22)-27) (Cancelled)

28) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 1, formed of paper.

29) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 28, press-formed from a paperboard blank.

30) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 29, wherein at least one surface of said paperboard blank is provided with a substantially liquid-imperious coating comprising an inorganic pigment or filler and a water-based, press applied overcoat.

31) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 30, wherein at least one surface of said paperboard blank is provided with a styrene-butadiene

polymer coating.

32) (Cancelled)

33) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 1, formed of a thermoplastic composition.

34) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 33, fabricated from a thermoplastic material by way of a technique selected from the group consisting of injection molding, injection blow molding, injection stretch molding and composite injection molding.

35) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 33, formed from a foamed polymeric material.

36) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 33, formed from sheet stock of thermoplastic material.

37) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 33, thermoformed, thermoformed by the application of vacuum or thermoformed by a combination of vacuum and pressure.

38) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 33, thermoformed by the application of vacuum.

39) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 33, wherein said thermoplastic composition is a foamed or solid polymeric material selected from the group consisting of: polyamides, polyacrylates, polysulfones, polyetherketones, polycarbonates, acrylics, polyphenylene sulfides, acetals, cellulosic polymers, polyetherimides, polyphenylene ethers or oxides, styrene-maleic anhydride copolymers, styrene-acrylonitrile copolymers, polyvinylchlorides and mixtures

thereof.

- 40) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container of claim 33, wherein said thermoplastic composition comprises a foamed or solid polymeric material selected from the group consisting of: polyesters, polystyrenes, polypropylenes, polyethylenes and mixtures thereof.
- 41) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 40, thermoformed from mineral-filled polypropylene sheet stock.
- 42) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 41, wherein said mineral filler is predominantly mica.
- 43) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 41, having a wall thickness from about 10 to about 80 mils and consisting essentially of from about 40 to about 90 percent by weight of a polypropylene polymer, from about 10 to about 60 percent by weight of a mineral filler, from about 1 to about 15 percent by weight polyethylene, up to about 5 weight percent titanium dioxide and optionally including a basic organic or basic inorganic compound comprising the reaction product of an alkali metal or alkaline earth element with carbonates, phosphates, carboxylic acids as well as alkali metal and alkaline earth element oxides, hydroxides, or silicates and basic metal oxides, including mixtures of silicon dioxide with one or more of the following oxides: magnesium oxide, calcium oxide, barium oxide, and mixtures thereof.
- 44) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 33, having a wall caliper of from about 10 to about 50 mils.
- 45) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 44, having a wall caliper of from about 15 to about 25 mils.

- 46) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 33, formed of a styrene polymer composition.
- 47) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 46, formed of polystyrene.
- 48) (Withdrawn) The disposable servingware container according to claim 33, formed from a mineral-filled thermoplastic composition.
- 49) (Cancelled)
- 50) (Original) A disposable servingware container press-formed from a generally planar paperboard blank comprising: a generally planar bottom portion; a first annular transition portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the generally planar bottom portion; an optional sidewall portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the first annular transition portion; a second annular transition portion flaring outwardly with respect to the first annular transition portion; an outer flange portion extending outwardly with respect to the second annular transition portion defining a container perimeter having a characteristic diameter, D; and at least first and second generally planar peripheral tabs extending outwardly from the flange portion of the container generally beyond the container perimeter, the peripheral tabs being configured so as to define a cross-tab dimension between their outer edges of generally parallel to and of like extent with a corresponding transverse dimension across the perimeter of the container.
- 51)-61) (Cancelled)
- 62) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 50, having a caliper of at least about 10 mils.
- 63)-67) (Cancelled)

- 68) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 50, having a generally round shape such that the container perimeter is a circle having a diameter, D, and wherein the cross-tab dimension defined by the first and second peripheral tabs is generally equal in length to the diameter, D.
- 69) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 68, wherein the ratio of the height of the container to diameter, D, is from about 0.05 to about 0.3 and wherein said generally planar bottom portion is provided with a plurality of upwardly projecting ribs which divide the container into a plurality of serving sections.
- 70)-72) (Cancelled)
- 73) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 72, wherein there are provided 3 upwardly projecting ribs which divide the container into 3 serving sections, one of which areas occupies at least about 60 percent of the bottom portion of the container.
- 74)-78) (Cancelled)
- 79) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 68, wherein said first and second tabs extend outwardly from the perimeter of the container a distance of from about 0.02 to about 0.3 times the diameter, D, of the container.
- 80)-90) (Cancelled)
- 91) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 68, wherein said first and second peripheral tabs have an arcuate outer edge.
- 92)-97) (Cancelled)

98) (Currently amended) A disposable servingware container comprising: a generally planar bottom portion; a first annular transition portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the generally planar bottom portion; an optional sidewall portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the first annular transition portion; a second annular transition portion flaring outwardly with respect to the first annular transition portion; an outer flange portion extending outwardly with respect to the second annular transition; wherein the container is characterized by a container height, H; the outer flange portion being characterized by a vertical drop wherein the ratio of the flange outer vertical drop to the characteristic diameter of the container is greater than about 0.01 such that the outer edge of the container terminates below the height, H, of the container, generally at a brim height, H_b; and a generally planar peripheral tab extending outwardly from the flange portion of the container over a distance of at least about 0.02 times the characteristic diameter of the container at a height, H_T, below the height, H, of the container. The disposable servingware container according to claim 97, wherein said peripheral tab extends outwardly from the flange at a tab height, H_T, which is lower than the brim height, H_b, and wherein the disposable servingware container is formed from a paperboard blank.

99) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 98, wherein the peripheral tab extends outwardly from the flange a distance of from about 0.02 to about 0.3 times the characteristic diameter.

100) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 99, wherein the peripheral tab extends outwardly from the perimeter a distance of from about 0.1 to about 0.3 times the characteristic diameter of the container.

101) (Cancelled)

102) (Currently Amended) The disposable servingware container according to claim 96 98, wherein the outer flange portion of the container comprises an arcuate outer flange portion with a convex upper surface, the radius of curvature of the arcuate

outer flange portion being between about 0.0175 and about 0.1 times the characteristic diameter of the container.

103)-106) (Cancelled)

107) (Currently Amended) The disposable servingware container according to claim 96 98, wherein the ratio of the flange outer vertical drop to the diameter, D, of the container is greater than about 0.013.

108)-110) (Cancelled)

111) (Original) A generally planar paperboard blank suitable for press-forming into a disposable pressware container comprising: a central portion defining generally a perimeter thereof having a characteristic diameter; at least first and second peripheral tabs extending outwardly from the central portion beyond the perimeter of the central portion, the peripheral tabs being configured so as to define a cross-tab dimension between their outer edges generally parallel to and of like extent with a corresponding transverse dimension across the perimeter of the blank.

112) (Original) The paperboard blank according to claim 111, the central portion having a circular shape defining a diameter, D' and wherein the cross-tab dimension defined by the first and second peripheral tabs is generally equal in length to diameter, D'.

113) (Original) The paperboard blank according to claim 111, wherein said first and second peripheral tabs have an arcuate outer edge.

114) (Original) The paperboard blank according to claim 113, wherein the outer edges of the first and second peripheral tabs have a radius of curvature of from about 0.01 to about 0.4 times the characteristic diameter of the paperboard blank.

115)-120) (Cancelled)

121) (Original) The paperboard blank according to claim 111, having a caliper of at least about 10 mils.

122)-128) (Cancelled)

129) (Original) The paperboard blank according to claim 111, wherein the first and second peripheral tabs define an angle therebetween less than about 150°.

130)-133) (Cancelled)

134) (Original) A generally planar paperboard blank suitable for press-forming into a disposable pressware container comprising: a central portion defining generally a perimeter thereof having a characteristic diameter; first and second peripheral tabs extending outwardly from the central portion beyond the perimeter of the central portion, the first and second peripheral tabs being configured so as to define a first cross-tab dimension between their outer edges generally parallel to and of greater length than a corresponding transverse dimension across the perimeter of the blank; third and fourth peripheral tabs extending outwardly from the central portion beyond the perimeter of the central portion, the third and fourth peripheral tabs being configured so as to define a second cross-tab dimension between their outer edges generally parallel to and of greater length than the corresponding transverse dimension across the perimeter of the blank; and wherein the first and second cross-tab dimensions are generally equal in length.

135) (Original) The paperboard blank according to claim 134, wherein the central portion is circular and defines a diameter, D', and wherein the first and second cross-tab dimensions are greater than the diameter, D'.

136) (Withdrawn) A method of press-forming a paperboard blank into a disposable servingware container comprising: (a) providing a generally planar paperboard blank

which includes a central portion defining generally a perimeter thereof as well as at least a first and second peripheral tabs extending outwardly from the central portion beyond the perimeter of the central portion, the peripheral tabs being configured so as to define a first cross-tab dimension between their outer edges generally parallel to and of like extent with a corresponding transverse dimension across the paperboard blank perimeter; (b) transferring said paperboard blank to a die set while controlling its orientation utilizing said first and second peripheral tabs such that the paperboard blank is disposed in the die set in a predetermined orientation with respect thereto; and (c) press-forming said paperboard blank into a disposable container having a generally planar bottom portion; a first annular transition portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the generally planar bottom portion; an optional sidewall portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the first annular transition portion; a second annular transition portion flaring outwardly with respect to the first annular transition portion; an outer flange portion extending outwardly with respect to the second annular transition portion defining generally the container perimeter; and at least first and second generally planar peripheral tabs corresponding to the tabs of the paperboard blank extending outwardly from the flange portion of the container generally beyond the container perimeter.

- 137) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 136, wherein the peripheral tabs of the container are configured so as to define a cross-tab dimension between their outer edges generally parallel to and of like extent with a corresponding transverse dimension across the perimeter of the container.
- 138) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 136, wherein the central portion of the paperboard blank is circular and defines a diameter, D' , and wherein the first cross-tab dimension defined by the first and second peripheral tabs is generally equal in length to the diameter, D' , of the central portion of the paperboard blank.
- 139) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 136, wherein the paperboard blank further comprises third and fourth peripheral tabs extending outwardly from the

central portion beyond the perimeter of the central portion wherein the third and fourth peripheral tabs are configured so as to define a second cross-tab dimension between their outer edges generally parallel to and of like extent with the corresponding transverse dimension across the perimeter of the blank.

- 140) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 136, wherein the step of transferring the paperboard blank to die set includes guiding the paperboard blank with a pair of generally parallel opposed tracks.
- 141) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 136, wherein said paperboard blank is provided with a printed image of predetermined position with respect to the peripheral tabs of the paperboard blank.
- 142) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 141, wherein the step of forming the container comprises forming a plurality of ribs into the bottom portion of the container in predetermined correspondence with the printed image of the paperboard blank.
- 143) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 141, wherein said image comprises character attributes which are facial features.
- 144) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 141, wherein said printed image comprises character attributes selected from the group consisting of eyes, ears, fins, arms, paws, hands, hair, legs or feet applied to said tabs.
- 145) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 141, wherein the step of forming the container comprises forming a plurality of embossments or debossments into the bottom portion of the container in predetermined correspondence with the printed image on the paperboard blank.

- 146) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 145, wherein the image comprises character attributes which are facial features.
- 147) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 145, wherein the printed image comprises character attributes selected from the group consisting of feet, noses and eyes.
- 148) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 136, wherein said die set is a segmented die set.
- 149) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 148, wherein said die set includes a punch base member with a punch outer container contour portion, a punch knock-out mounted for reciprocating motion with respect to the punch base member and a pressure ring mounted for reciprocating motion with respect to the punch base member.
- 150) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 149, wherein said die set includes a die base member with a die outer container contour portion, a die knock-out mounted for reciprocating motion with respect to the die base member and a draw ring mounted for reciprocating motion with respect to the die base member.
- 151) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 150, wherein said paperboard blank contacts said draw ring and said pressure ring prior to contacting both the outer container contour portion of the punch base and the outer container contour portion of the die base.
- 152) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 150, wherein said paperboard blank contacts the die knock-out and the punch knock-out prior to contacting both the punch base outer container contour portion and the outer container contour portion of the die base.

- 153) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 150, wherein said die knock-out has a generally planar surface provided with a plurality of cantilevered rib male portions projecting therefrom.
- 154) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 153, wherein said punch knock-out is provided with a generally planar surface having a plurality of female grooves therein corresponding to the male rib portions of the die knock-out adapted to cooperate therewith to form a plurality of ribs in the bottom portion of the disposable servingware container upon press-forming thereof from the paperboard blank.
- 155) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 136, wherein the first and second generally planar peripheral tabs of the container extend outwardly in a direction generally parallel to the generally planar bottom portion of the formed container.
- 156) (Original) A disposable servingware container comprising: a generally planar bottom portion; a first annular transition portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the generally planar bottom portion; an optional sidewall portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the first annular transition portion; a second annular transition portion flaring outwardly with respect to the first annular transition portion; an outer flange portion extending outwardly with respect to the second annular transition portion defining generally the container perimeter having a characteristic diameter; and first and second generally planar peripheral tabs extending outwardly from the flange portion of the container generally beyond the container perimeter, the first and second peripheral tabs being configured so as to define a first cross-tab dimension between their outer edges generally parallel to and of greater length than with a corresponding transverse dimension across the perimeter of the container.
- 157) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 156, wherein the container perimeter is circular and defines a diameter, D , and the first cross-tab dimensions are of a length greater than D .

158) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 157, formed as a bowl having a height to diameter ratio of at least 0.15.

159)-160) (Cancelled)

161) (Original) A disposable servingware container comprising: a generally planar bottom portion; a first annular transition portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the generally planar bottom portion; an optional sidewall portion extending upwardly and outwardly from the first annular transition portion; a second annular transition portion flaring outwardly with respect to the first annular transition portion; an outer flange portion extending outwardly with respect to the second annular transition portion defining generally the container perimeter A having a characteristic diameter; first and second generally planar peripheral tabs extending outwardly from the flange portion of the container generally beyond the container perimeter, the first and second peripheral tabs being configured so as to define a first cross-tab dimension between their outer edges generally parallel to and of greater length than with a corresponding transverse dimension across the perimeter of the container; and third and fourth generally planar peripheral tabs extending outwardly from the flange portion of the container generally beyond the container perimeter, the third and fourth peripheral tabs being configured so as to define a second cross-tab dimension between their outer edges generally parallel to and of greater length than with a corresponding transverse dimension across the perimeter of the container.

162) (Cancelled)

163) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 161, wherein the container perimeter is circular and defines a diameter, D, and the first and second cross-tab dimensions are generally equal in length and of a length greater than D.

- 164) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 163, formed as a bowl having a height to diameter ratio of at least 0.15.
- 165) (Original) The disposable servingware container according to claim 164, formed as a bowl having a height to diameter ratio from about 0.175 to about 0.3.
- 166) (Withdrawn) A method of making a disposable servingware container comprising: (a) preparing a paperboard blank with a circular perimeter of diameter, D' , and first and second lobular tabs extending outwardly from the perimeter of diameter, D' , of the paperboard blank; (b) press-forming the paperboard blank into a disposable container having a generally planar bottom portion, a first annular transition portion adjacent thereto, an optional sidewall portion, a second annular transition portion flaring outwardly with respect to the first annular transition portion and an outer flange extending outwardly from the second annular transition portion to define the container diameter, D , which is less than D' , wherein the disposable container has a height to diameter ratio of greater than about 0.1; and wherein further the lobular tabs extend outwardly from the bowl perimeter of diameter, D , a distance of from about 0.02 to about 0.3 times the bowl diameter, D .
- 167) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 166, wherein the container has a height to diameter ratio of greater than about 0.125.
- 168) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 168, wherein the container has a height to diameter ratio of greater than about 0.15.
- 169) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 168, wherein the container has a height to diameter ratio of from about 0.175 to about 0.3.
- 170) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 169, wherein the container has a height to diameter ratio of from about 0.2 to about 0.275.

- 171) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 166, wherein the lobular tabs extend outwardly from the container perimeter a distance of from about 0.1 to about 0.3 times the container diameter, D.
- 172) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 171, wherein the lobular tabs extend outwardly from the container perimeter a distance of from about 0.15 to about 0.25 times the container diameter, D.
- 173) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 166, wherein said paperboard blank is provided with a printed image of predetermined position with respect to the lobular tabs of the paperboard blank.
- 174) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 173, wherein said image comprises character attributes which are facial features.
- 175) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 173, wherein said printed image comprises character attributes selected from the group consisting of eyes, ears, fins, arms, paws, hands, hair, legs or feet applied to said tabs.
- 176) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 173, wherein the step of forming the container comprises forming a plurality of embossments or debossments into the bottom portion of the container in predetermined correspondence with the printed image on the paperboard blank.
- 177) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 173, wherein the image comprises character attributes which are facial features.
- 178) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 173, wherein the printed image comprises character attributes selected from the group consisting of feet, noses and eyes.

- 179) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 178, wherein the image comprises eyes.
- 180) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 173, wherein the lobular tabs of the paperboard blank are printed with images of ears.
- 181) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 166, wherein the paperboard blank has at least about 40 radially extending scores spread around its perimeter.
- 182) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 181, wherein the paperboard blank has at least about 60 radially extending scores spread around its perimeter.
- 183) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 166, wherein the first and second lobular tabs define an included angle therebetween less than about 150°.
- 184) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 166, wherein the first and second lobular tabs define an included angle therebetween less than about 120°.
- 185) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 166, wherein the first and second lobular tabs define an included angle therebetween of from about 70° to about 90°.
- 186) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 166, wherein the lobular tabs extend outwardly in a direction generally parallel with the generally planar bottom portion of the container.
- 187) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 166, wherein the tabs are generally planar.
- 188) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 187, wherein the planar tabs have an image printed thereon.